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SECRET/CONTROL  
(U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY)

Subject: Valerio BENUZZI

Report No.: PIM-1146

Place Acquired: Milan

Date of Info.: See below

Evaluation: B-2

Date Acquired: 15 June 1949

Source: [ ]

Date of Report: 29 June 1949

1. Valerio BENUZZI, di Emilio and di Giovanna HOLZGARTNER, born at Trento 30 November 1892, publicist, holder of passport #14899/P issued 8 February 1949 by the Questura of Milan. Officially he is registered as living at Corso Plebisciti 10. Actually only his wife lives there, he having lived apart from her for several years because of her addiction to cocaine.
2. Subject has lived for several years at the Hotel Milano in Via Manzoni. He gives the impression of having an office in Corso Matteotti 10, but actually he has his office with Fortunato GARGANO, an old friend since 1931.
3. At his hotel he receives many visitors, the most frequent being the industrialist DE ANGELI FRUA and Senator FALCK. It is believed that the latter subsidizes Subject, as he often leaves for him envelopes containing money. Other visitors include Dr. SCARSELLI of the Milan Questura; it is known that Subject is a confidant of the Questore of Milan -- notes from that personage of Subject are often received by the portineria of the hotel.
4. Since the 1915-18 war BENUZZI worked as a confidant of special military and political organs, passing to the OVRA when that body was organized. Before 1943 he lived in Rome. He came north to Milan and entered the service of the German SD at the direct dependence of Col. RAUFF, who had his headquarters at the ill-famed Hotel Regina.
5. During the Nazi-Fascist period BENUZZI executed a by-now famous double play, entering into contact with Cardinal SCHUSTER, and becoming the trait d'union between him and Col. RAUFF.
6. After 25 April 1945 BENUZZI was arrested and put under the jurisdiction of the Special Court of Assizes. SCHUSTER intervened with the court and with the Italian Military Authorities (CS), and BENUZZI was set free.
7. At the local CS office there is a letter from BENUZZI addressed to Col. VALENTINI expressing pleasure at having met him, promising to visit him, and attaching a copy of his absolution by the Court of Assizes. Written by hand on the corner of the letter -- apparently in VALENTINI's handwriting -- is the statement that it was not true and had never been verified that the Court had made reference to any laudable acts preformed by BENUZZI during the Nazi-Fascist period which had influenced its decision to release him.

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